



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JUNE 30, 1961

WORLD MEETING ON TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE FISHES SCHEDULED FOR 1962

The United States Government is inviting the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to hold its world meeting on the biology of tuna and tuna-like fishes in July 1962, in the San Diego area in California.

The fundamental objective of the conference is to assess the potential of the world's tuna stocks. The tunas, which were discarded fishes a half century ago, are now fished in every ocean except the Arctic and the Antarctic and by fishermen of many nations. It is hoped that from the conference will come a composite picture of the rate of utilization and the possibilities and limits of future development.

Officials of the Department of State and Department of the Interior have been conferring for some time on arrangements for the meeting. The United States tuna industry, which is centered in California, and the California Congressional delegation have endorsed the proposal for a conference. Governor Edmund Brown of California has extended the State's hospitality to the members of the conference.

The decision to hold a world meeting on the biology of tuna arose from the successful meeting on sardines called by the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy, in 1959. The rapid development of tuna fisheries throughout the world emphasized the need for tuna researchers to meet and discuss the biological and oceanographic programs now being conducted; the need for coordination of the work of the various tuna research scientists is also becoming evident as the importance of that resource continues to grow.

The FAO decided that the 1962 meeting should cover the biological aspects only of tuna and tuna-like fishes. Consideration will be given later to meetings on the economic and technological phases.

Under the general plan of the meeting only the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which are of commercial importance will be considered. The scope of the inquiry will include the development of the various fisheries, the identity, distribution and behavior and the potential yields of the various stocks; specific problems and outlook for future cooperation in coordination of methods and research programs; ways in which international cooperation can be made possible.

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